



NEWS RELEASE



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Technology Solutions Proposed to Enhance Air Travel Safety

Silicon Valley Aviation Security Task Force Submits Final Report to Mayor Gonzales and Congressman Honda

San Jose --- The Silicon Valley Blue Ribbon Task Force on Aviation Security and Technology recommended priorities for technology applications to enhance the safety and security of air travel in its final report released today.

The task force recommendations focused on four key areas for using existing and emerging technologies:

-  Validate and manage the security of the airport and aviation workforce, such as the use of biometric authentication.
-  Strengthen airport facility and airplane security with video monitoring systems, driver and vehicle authentication, and access control.
-  Integrate and secure aviation and airport communications infrastructure, including networked digital technology.
-  Ensure passenger respect and rights with appropriate and efficient technology applications.

The full report can be found on the website of the Blue Ribbon Task Force at ***www.sjcbueribbontaskforce.org***.

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The report was presented to Congressman Mike Honda and San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales, who together established the task force in March. They directed the task force to work with Mineta San Jose International Airport and business and technology leaders to identify solutions that can enhance national and local aviation security and efficiency through technology. Symantec CEO John W. Thompson was chair of the task force.

Over the past 100 days, the Blue Ribbon Task Force reviewed a wide array of aviation security technology proposals. Its recommendations for promising uses of technology will be submitted to US Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta, Undersecretary for the Transportation Security Administration John Magaw, and the San Jose City Council.

"Following the events of September 11, it was apparent that aviation security could be substantially improved," said Congressman Honda. "Instead of being deterred, we gained commitment. Mayor Gonzales and I proactively sought the best minds in Silicon Valley to formulate technology recommendations to improve aviation security and convenience for travelers.

"I am proud of the work of the task force and their resourcefulness in finding new applications for proven, deployable technology to improve aviation security. I look forward to going back to Washington D.C. to showcase solutions that could serve as a national model for establishing a more secure aviation infrastructure."

According Mayor Ron Gonzales, "I knew we could count on Silicon Valley's leadership and innovation to identify practical technology solutions for the benefit of the nation's aviation system that balance the security of the general public with our individual civil rights. This work represents the best of Silicon Valley to the nation."

Thompson noted that it was a tremendous honor for to have participated on the task force and provide assistance to the efforts of Congressman Honda and Mayor Gonzales for securing the nation's airports.

"We are excited about the recommendations in this report and sincerely hope we have made a real contribution to benefit the security of aviation travelers and employees throughout the country.

"This report is a tremendous accomplishment given our 100-day time frame. All of the credit should go to the members of the task force who devoted their time and energies to this project," he said.

The events of September 11 focused the nation on the need for greater security throughout the aviation infrastructure. Congress and the FAA enacted broad new regulations for air travel safety, and all U.S. airports are required to implement an array of new security measures by specific dates over the next three years.

To ensure uniform and nationwide implementation of these new measures, the responsibility for airport security operations was placed under the jurisdiction of the new Transportation Security Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation, headed by Undersecretary of Transportation John Magaw.

The new federal aviation security law includes a key provision authored by Honda that will launch a nationwide pilot program in twenty or more U.S. airports to test new and emerging security technologies. The measure could dramatically improve airport security by promoting the development and use of cutting edge technologies, such as biometric authentication, Position System applications, enhanced communication systems and database integration protocols.

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**Blue Ribbon Task Force on
Aviation Security and Technology
Recommendations**

1. New Technologies Can Improve the Nation's Airports by Creating:

A. A Validated Workforce through

- ~~✍~~ Biometric authentication
- ~~✍~~ Workforce management

B. A Validated Facility through

- ~~✍~~ Video monitoring
- ~~✍~~ Driver/vehicle authentication
- ~~✍~~ GPS devices to monitor vehicle traffic
- ~~✍~~ Access control within aircraft, including the cockpit

C. A Validated Communications Infrastructure through

- ~~✍~~ Integrated communications infrastructure
- ~~✍~~ Migration to a secure networked, digital technology

D. More protected and more respected passengers through implementation of the above recommendations

2. Air Travelers Must Have Relief with Respect to

- ~~✍~~ The Travel Environment Threatened by Inadequate Security
- ~~✍~~ Cumbersome Airport Internal Communications Systems
- ~~✍~~ Discomfort Resulting From Poorly Trained Personnel
- ~~✍~~ Lengthy Check-in Processes Due to Poorly Functioning Detection Technologies

3. Mineta San Jose International Airport is Ideally Suited for Testing New Technologies

- ~~✍~~ Mid-sized airport
- ~~✍~~ Heavy Business Use
- ~~✍~~ Major Cargo Center
- ~~✍~~ Positioned for Redesign

4. New Technology Applications Must Not Interfere with Civil Liberties

- ~~✍~~ The Right to Privacy
- ~~✍~~ Freedom from Racial/Ethnic Profiling

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